

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicant: Shinohara et al.

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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Prior to the examination of the above-identified patent application, please enter the following amendments and consider the following remarks.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 10 of this paper.